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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

MAERTENS et al.

Atty. Ref.: 2551-68

Serial No. 09/995,791

Group: 1648

Filed: November 29, 2001

Examiner: Wortman

For: PURIFIED HEPATITIS C VIRUS ENVELOPE PROTEINS FOR
DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC USE

* * * * *

August 29, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

PETITION UNDER RULE 137(b)

The applicants respectfully petition for withdrawal of the abandonment of the above-identified application as the entirety of the delay of filing the required reply (RCE attached) was unintentional. The entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply (March 26, 2003 (extended from the February 23, 2003 due date by the filing of the two-month extension petition on March 26, 2003)) until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to paragraph 3 of Rule 137(b) was unintentional.

The required reply (i.e., response to the Office Action dated January 23, 2003) is attached.

The required petition fee under Rule 17(m) is also attached.

Nothing further is believed to be required for acceptance and grant of the present Petition however the Office is requested to contact the undersigned if otherwise.

The Office is authorized to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account 14-1140
for any further required fee. See, attached authorization.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



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